feet; the roof is open to the ceiling, as before described. On the north, east, and south sides there are windows, each composed of three lights; in these openings coloured glass will be inserted. The wall immediately over the east window is enriched by a gilt cross. The pavement, three steps, and platform, are laid with Sicilian marble; the altar and tabernacle, both free from the wall, are of the same material; the altar is enriched with festoons of flowers, sculptured in Italy; the door of the tabernacle is an ancient carved oak panel, probably of the thirteenth century; it represents the crucifixion, and is a work of great interest. The sedilia are of oak, with carvings on the backs of the seats. The pulpit adjoins the sanctuary, and is placed round the last column of the nave; it is octagonal in plan and of Sicilian marble. The tribune is separated from the chancel by an open screen. The vault for the founder is under the sanctuary.

On the north side of the church, and communicating with the sacristies, there is a residence for the priest, attached to which is a sufficient piece of ground for a garden. On the south side there are schools for boys and girls, with separate play-grounds. At the east end the cemetery is placed, in the centre of which an iron cross is erected.

The church is on the estate of Mr. Alexander Raphael, the present member for St. Albans, who has given the ground, and at his sole charge erected and endowed the whole of the buildings for the benefit of the poor. The architect is Mr. Charles Parker, and the builder Mr. John Dickson.

VENTILATION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

Sir,—I was glad to see, in the last number but one of The Builder, a suggestion of your correspondent "A." for the ventilation of apartments in a simple and inexpensive manner. I have often thought how easily a similar plan, and nearly as economical, might be adopted in all new-built dwelling-houses, were the necessity of proper ventilation more felt by those engaged in building occupations. The plan I would suggest is, to carry up in the brick or stonework of the chimney-breast of each room, a common earthen pipe of about 1½ or 2 inches diameter, commencing it above the fireplace, in any position, so as to be within 4½ inches of the flue of such fireplace. Into each of these pipes, on a level with the joist above the ceiling, I would introduce one made of zinc or tin, continuing the same along the joist to a funnel in the centre of the room, exactly in the same manner proposed by your correspondent "A." The earthen pipes from each room, on working up the chimney stack, might be brought together between the flues and carried to the top with them. It will be evident these will become heated sufficient to cause a current and draw off the foul air from the rooms. The additional width required to the chimney for the purpose would be but of trifling cost compared with the benefit derived. The earthen pipes also can be obtained at about one penny per foot run, as those made for agricultural purposes will answer as well as more expensive ones.—P.

THE LATE MR. J. A. BRANDON.

On Saturday last, the 11th inst., occurred the death of Mr. J. Arthur Brandon, a young architect of much promise, at the early age of twenty-six. The zeal and ability with which he pursued his profession, in conjunction with his elder brother, Mr. Raphael Brandon, had occasioned the commencement of a practice which must have become extensive, particularly in the branch of English church architecture. The loss is felt by his professional acquaintances with increased sorrow, on account of his personal conduct as a gentleman. Those who knew him best speak the most highly of him. Most of our readers have a knowledge of the valuable works produced by the Messrs. Brandon—"The Analysis of Gothic Architecture," "Parish Churches," &c.—and will grieve with us in hearing of this loss to the profession. In the midst of life we are indeed in death. Let us each humbly strive to fit ourselves for the coming time.

CURIOUS PEW-END AT WENDEN CHURCH, ESSEX.

CARVED PEW-END, WENDEN CHURCH, ESSEX.

The old church at Wenden, whence the carved pulpit already engraved in No. 248 of our journal was obtained, contains the subjoined curious example of grotesque ornament, which forms the corner post of the old pews that fill the chancel. This post is a solid beam of oak, measuring six inches on each face, and the animal on the summit is cut from the solid wood. It appears to represent a hyæna, who is grinning at his face reflected in the mirror at his feet. It is an amusing instance of the taste for the ludicrous, occasionally to be met with in internal church decoration of the middle ages. The opposite corner of the pew has had a similar ornament, but that has disappeared.

THE IRON TRADE.

How are the mighty fallen! The position of those 'great masters,' who were carrying all before them this time last year, is declared by one of their own most stanch upholders, to present 'a deplorable reverse of the activity that has prevailed during the last two years. Twelve months ago every work was in operation, workmen scarcely to be obtained, orders superabundant—specifications almost preceding them—and no suspicions crossing the mind, of difficulty to be encountered in meeting liabilities. Now, we find confidence at the lowest possible ebb, a palpable stagnation of business, and instead of orders and specifications—countermands and complaints. Quality not suitable—sizes not exact—delivery not punctual—quantity exceeded—or, where no excuse presents itself, an unblushing avowal of inability to pay—form the burthen of each succeeding post; while week after week works are partially closed or brought to an absolute stand-still. Many new works, also, and additional erections, with a vast amount of machinery, have been prepared, without the slightest prospect of their now being brought into operation.'

During the past month, says an influential broker connected with the trade, 'the iron market has undergone a further depression, chiefly owing to the stoppage of railway works, and the continued pressure in the money market. This trade, which for two or three years past has been highly prosperous, is now about to undergo a change evidently for the worse. Some large makers have already suspended payment, throwing a great number of men out of employment; and rumours are rife, that unless the trade is better supported, much mischief may take place both in Staffordshire and at Glasgow. The demand for all kinds of iron has greatly decreased, while the stocks are accumulating. In some degree to meet the case, iron masters are making arrangements to lessen the make, and reduce the wages of their workmen. A sale of 2,000 tons of rail made within the last week, is said to have realized a price equivalent to not more than 7*l.* per ton in Wales. Scotch pig-iron is gradually declining; and so low as 47*s.* 6*d.* to 48*s.* per ton, cash, for mixed numbers has been accepted by holders in Scotland.'

The iron-stone miners of South Staffordshire, says a still more recent authority, 'as well as the furnace men engaged in several large firms around Dudley, received notice on Saturday night last of a reduction of twenty per cent. in the amount of their wages. Short time is being generally adopted, and many iron-masters have determined to suspend operations altogether for the present. A meeting of iron-masters was held at Wolverhampton on Wednesday, when a resolution similar to the above was unanimously agreed to, so that the reduction of wages will become general throughout South Staffordshire.'

St. Mark's Church, Wolverhampton: Mad Builders.—We have been favoured with the amount of tenders for erecting St. Mark's Church, opened last Saturday; Mr. C. W. Orford, architect:—

Higham and Son	£7,491	2	9
Clarke	5,290	1	8
Robinson (accepted)	4,859	0	0

Repeal of the Window-Tax.—The delegates appointed by all the metropolitan parishes met on Friday in last week to consider the steps necessary to be taken "for enforcing upon the Government the necessity of an immediate repeal of the window-tax, without which they have themselves declared any measure of sanitary reform an absurdity." Lord Duncan pledged himself to leave no stone unturned in the House, and the following resolution was passed:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that no measure of sanitary reform can be effective or useful unless accompanied by a repeal of the most obnoxious and unhealthy impost of the window duties." Meetings should be called in every parish to consider this subject, and to exhibit the feeling which prevails.

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